

Democracy is based upon an informed populace - not a manipulated populace. Concentration of power is extremely un-Democratic as it undermines the strength that differentiates the US from the old Soviet Union, or Putin's Russia for that matter. Information, not propaganda, is critical to the election process. It is cynical to present a 40 minute mockumentary of Senator Kerry as "news programming" when it is obviously just another Republican hack job on the order of the SwiftBoatVets fiasco. Your forcing stations to show this mockumentary is a perfect example of why the FCC should not allow the concentration of media - and just what, given such concentrated power, Sinclair Broadcasting feels justified in doing to the American public - while using the American public's air waves no less. The timing of the release also has the odor of excessive power. This smarmy attitude and behavior is reprehensible.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. But when large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for the bottom line and less of what we need for our democracy. Instead of something produced at "News Central" far away, it's more important that we see real people from our own communities and more substantive news about issues that matter.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard. Thank you.